

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S OF STRATFORD NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend Anthony Kopka, members of the congregation, and the Stratford community in extending my sincere congratulations to St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church as they celebrate its 100th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

St. Joseph's was first organized in Bridgeport, Connecticut by a group of Polish Catholic immigrants in 1907 and later moved to Stratford, Connecticut after building a new church complex. St. Joseph's was born out of the congregation's desire to exercise more control over their parish. It was important to the Polish congregants that their church be led by a Polish priest, services held in Polish—in all, it was of the utmost importance to the congregants that their ethnic traditions and customs be preserved. In an effort to meet these needs, the Church became a part of the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC)—a denomination which began in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The PNCC blends traditional Apostolic and Catholic teaching with American democracy which is governed by a constitution patterned after that of the United States. The Church established executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at national, diocesan, and parish levels. The result is a democratic Catholicism that among other things provides for ownership of parish property by the congregation, a voice and a vote for every member in most matters of the parish, and the election of parish delegates to meet with clergy at synods to elect bishops and determine church policy.

Since its inception in 1907, St. Joseph's has been an integral part of our community and has now grown to its current 300 parish members from 20 different Connecticut communities. Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, St. Joseph's gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of the St. Joseph's have also given much to the City of Bridgeport and the Town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

For 100 years, the St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church has been a fixture in communities of Bridgeport and Stratford. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history. Happy 100th Anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS HELEN GALE FERGUSON ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Helen Gale Ferguson and wish her well on the occasion of her 75th birthday. Helen was born in Newfoundland, Canada in February 1932, where she grew up with her siblings as the daughter of a fisherman and boat builder who sailed the waters of the northern Atlantic.

Upon completion of high school, Helen began working for the U.S. Air Force at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville, Newfoundland. It was there that she met and married Mark E. Ferguson, Jr., during his active duty assignment at the base. Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force, they settled with their children in 1960 in Glen Burnie, Maryland. In 1966, Helen proudly became a U.S. citizen during a ceremony in Annapolis, Maryland. Helen and Mark were married for 41 wonderful years until his passing in 1997.

Helen is the proud mother of four children. Her personal life is one of grace, quiet strength, and love of family. Her values have been passed down to her children, as each of them have chosen a life of service to our Nation. Her daughters Pamela and Patricia both work for the Department of Defense. Her son, David, works for the Department of the Treasury, and her son Mark serves as a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Helen is adored by her seven grandchildren Alex, Hannah, Andrew, Eric, Ellie, Ian, and Seth.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our very best to Helen Ferguson on the occasion of her 75th birthday and recognizing her as a role model for her strength, dignity, and support for her family. Coming from a family of immigrants myself, I am particularly proud of her as a role model to all who come to this country from humble beginnings, and contribute to the rich fabric of America.

HONORING MISS GREATER SPRINGFIELD, CARESSA CAMERON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Caressa Cameron for her year of service to the Miss America Organization and Greater Springfield area.

Ms. Cameron won the title of Miss Greater Springfield 2006 on February 12, 2006. She has worked tirelessly with the Boys and Girls Club to promote her platform of AIDS awareness through behavior modification in the Northern Virginia area.

During her reign, Ms. Cameron made numerous appearances around Springfield, including a gala fundraiser at Greenspring Retirement Community. She also spoke to students at Erving Middle School about "Right Decisions, Right Now," a Miss Virginia program.

Last June, Ms. Cameron competed in the Miss Virginia pageant in Roanoke, VA and placed 2nd runner-up. She was then asked to represent Virginia at the National Miss Sweetheart Pageant in Illinois and placed 4th runner-up to Miss National Sweetheart 2006.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Ms. Cameron for representing the Greater Springfield area with great pride and respect. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this distinguished title and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILTON GORDON

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been dedicated to higher education and who is a model community servant to my district, Dr. Milton Gordon.

As Chancellor of California State University, Fullerton, Dr. Milton Gordon has been a visionary for the students and faculty as he works to promote higher education for women and minorities.

On February 27th, 2007, Dr. Gordon will be honored by KinderCaminata, a non-profit community organization in Orange County, California that sponsors educational outreach to kindergarten-age children and their families, focusing on promoting literacy, celebrating cultural heritage, and career education. Dr. Gordon will be receiving the "Corazón" Award from KinderCaminata. The tribute is a much deserved honor and should be celebrated by everyone in Orange County, California.

Below are remarks that illustrate Dr. Gordon's outstanding commitment to all the students that Cal State Fullerton seeks to serve. These remarks are taken from Dr. Gordon's report to the University's Latino Faculty and Staff in October 2006:

We are here to strengthen our ties as a community that is working to make learning truly accessible and preeminent to all students and especially to Latino Students.

Cal State Fullerton feels that a large measure of our success is due to our campus outreach efforts and service to the community. While demographic growth has also contributed to the Latino increase, without college readiness programs offered by CSUF, such as Gear Up and ENLACE, the educational obstacles faced by large numbers of Latino students would not have been overcome.

But there is much more we need to do. We need to expand our efforts to work with parents and students in the middle and high schools of the county to increase the number of college ready Latino graduates. We continue to work with colleagues from Fullerton and Santa Ana Colleges to develop a work plan to improve county-wide Latino college readiness programs modeled after the Santa Ana Partnership and its ENLACE Program. We are in the process of creating additional programs in the sciences in collaboration with Fullerton College to increase the transfer of well prepared Latino Students into our Math-based programs in the sciences and engineering. We hope to expand such collaboration with transfer programs to Cal State Fullerton from all Orange County